

School Enrollment Task Force Meeting  
Town Hall  
730 Massachusetts Avenue  
Arlington, MA  
Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
7:00 PM

**Present:** Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent of the Schools  
Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager (absent)  
John Cole, Permanent Town Building Committee (absent)  
Joe Curro, Board of Selectman  
Charlie Foskett, Capital Planning & Finance  
William Hayner, School Committee  
Diane Mahon, Board of Selectman (@7:20)  
Cindy Starks, School Committee,  
Al Tosti, Finance Committee  
Jeff Thielman, School Committee (@7:20)

Selectman, Joe Curro, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Curro explained that he would chair the meeting in the absence of the Town Manager who was not in attendance due to illness.

Mr. Curro recapped that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss short term increasing enrollments, to hear responses from School Administration on requests from the last SETF meeting and to also discuss short-term recommendations for the January 25<sup>th</sup> Special Town Meeting.

Minutes of Past Meeting

Will be approved at the next meeting

Response to Request for Data

Supt. Bodie reviewed the four responses requested by the task force at their last meeting that address ways to solve the growing enrollments and to report on the cost of modulars at the Thompson.

1. The Cost Option to Bus One Grade From Thompson to Peirce in 2016-2017

- ◆ Estimated costs for two buses would be approximately \$183,000.
- ◆ Estimated costs for one bus with two runs would be approximately \$123,000.

Dr. Bodie reviewed both the pros and cons of each option.

2. Thompson-Hardy District Charts

- ◆ The chart created assumed for average class size of no more than 23 in grades 3-5 and no more than 22 in K-2, it also assumes no increases in enrollment from 2015-2016.
- ◆ Using this metric would increase the need for an additional classroom.
- ◆ This option does not address the longer term need for additional classrooms

Pros and Cons of this version were reviewed.

### 3. Proposed Possible Redistricting Maps

#### **Scenario A**

- ◆ Shifts students from Stratton to Peirce, Bishop to Stratton, Thompson to Bishop and Hardy to Thompson.
- ◆ The majority of students would need to be bused.
- ◆ There is not sufficient movement to prevent the need for modulars of a permanent addition.

#### **Scenario B**

- ◆ The Bishop district becomes quite large.
- ◆ Does not accomplish what we need in terms of extra space.

The Task Force discussed the pros and cons of the above versions.

#### **Discussion: Recommendations to January Special Town Meeting**

On a motion by Al Tosti seconded by Diane Mahon and amended by Charlie Foskett, it was unanimously voted to:

- A. Support the installation and funding for two modulars at the Thompson School for the 2016-2017 school year.
- B. That the School Administration and School Committee continue to strongly review buffer zones and redistricting in the district to take advantage of any efficiencies that can be obtained with minimal disruption to students and families.
- C. That the SETF reconvene in September or October of 2016 with updated enrollment numbers from McKibben and to review the entire issue of continuing with modulars at the Thompson School or if we need permanent construction or to consider additional actions. (This does not preclude the SETF from continuing to meet to discuss ongoing concerns, i.e. Ottoson Middle School and Thompson School).

#### **Other Business**

Mr. Curro asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak to the Task Force.

- ◆ Ted Peluso pointed out that the task force must make a decision between now and June 2016 on whether or not the leases for the tenants at the Gibbs will be terminated or renewed and recommended that the task force consider the Gibbs as a viable option of student enrollment.
- ◆ Steve Ligget reported on a survey taken by OMS parents where 75% of parents would like to see the Gibbs School return as a middle school, 42% would like to see the Gibbs as a town-wide sixth grade and 63% agree that the Gibbs School should be used in some capacity.
- ◆ A Hardy parent

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. (Town Hall Lyons Room).

The meeting adjourned @ 8:50 pm.

Submitted by:  
Karen Tassone